

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE COAST  
GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION



**Duncan Hunter**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
50th District, California  
November 22, 2013

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Chairman Robert Goodlatte  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte:

It is my understanding that your committee is examining the issue of asylum and attempts to circumvent our current immigration laws. In light of this, I want to highlight my interest in this issue, and encourage you to examine the asylum process in the San Diego region, which is home to the nation's largest border crossing.

Over the past several months, officials in the San Diego community have alerted me to concerns regarding foreign nationals claiming asylum. It has long been a tenet of our immigration system, and our national character, to provide asylum to those whose life or freedom are threatened. However, for this system to work, it is important to ensure the integrity and accuracy of claims.

Alarming reports of Mexican nationals, including dangerous cartel members, claiming asylum in order to bypass regular immigration channels are truly disconcerting and raise serious questions about the veracity of the claims—especially given the fact that a vast majority of asylum claims from Mexico are ultimately denied. As you are aware, some of these individuals are released pending their immigration hearing, raising questions as to how these individuals are monitored during their release. I also remain concerned about the integrity of the asylum process for the continuing number of foreign nationals from countries other than Mexico seeking entry into the U.S.—exposing the U.S. and border communities such as San Diego to significant risk.

Thank you again for your committee's interest in this matter. I stand ready to work with you as the committee's work moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Duncan Hunter", written over a horizontal line.

Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress